THE Lions' Pride
OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

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Lease up on laptops; students must return IBMs

BY KRISTIN BRITTAIN
Lions' Pride Editor in Chief

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are not honor students must return their laptop by April 30.

"We don't guarantee students a laptop for four years; Saint Leo provides a laptop if you are a full time student living in residential housing," said Les Lloyd, Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer at University Technology Services (UTS).

Saint Leo provides laptops to full time residential students at no charge. The school pays monthly on a three year lease for the IBM laptops.

"There are 1,100 laptops due back to IBM, this summer," said Lloyd.

"The turnover is at odd times. In the past, some were collected during the summer and some were not. It is all based on when the lease is up with IBM. Last year they were due back in September, so we let students come back and return them in the fall."

However, the problem with that is when the deadline is close to when students return to campus, many either don't return the laptop or don't return to campus at all. For any laptops that are not returned the university gets significantly fined by IBM and the student is charged $1,400.

"In the past four years , about 30 percent of students did not return their laptops. This year we spent a lot of time chasing after students from past years who did not return their computers. Obviously when stuff is not returned, it is the university budget that gets hit hard and that takes away from other things," said Lloyd.

Currently, UTS is 100 laptops short of what they need to supply juniors and seniors with laptops next year. So, UTS decided to get a little creative with the laptops they currently have. They are presently offering seniors, juniors, and sophomores (freshmen are not included unless they are not returning to housing next year) the ability to return their laptop to UTS and receive $125 credit on their Saint Leo account. If their account balance is already paid in full, the student will receive the supplemental money. Honor students, based on their year, will also have the ability to sell back their laptops.

"One of the things we heard from many students is that they already have a personal laptop. So the IBM just sits around and never gets used," said Lloyd.

Also, for any student who wants to purchase a dell laptop, the university will offer them a "pretty substantial discount."

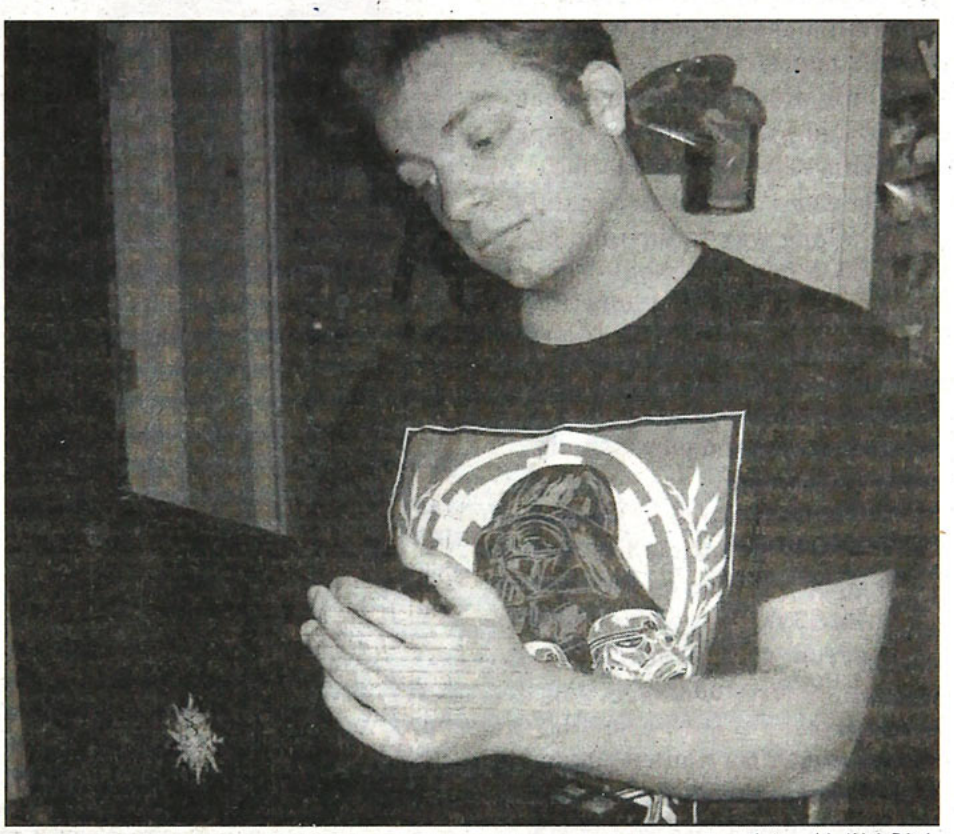
"What I'm trying to do is give the students the max amount of credit, so they can buy a laptop if they feel it is something they are going to use, or make it so that they can get some cash back if they already have a computer they use," said Lloyd.

It is not clear yet which laptops the juniors and senior will receive in the fall.

"Based on my assumption, in the fall we will have some IBM R60s and R61s and some Dells. We haven't decided yet on who is getting what," said Lloyd.

Students have many concerns regarding their laptops especially those who are taking an online course over the summer.

"As a student who is heavily involved in organizations on campus, I use my laptop over the summer to work on things for the upcoming semester," said junior Sarah Sharina. "Without my laptop, I will be unable to do this work and this is a big inconvenience for me and students like me who need their laptops to prepare for fall."



photograph by Kristin Brittain

Freshman Adam Wethington says his final good byes to his IBM laptop before he returns it to UTS for good.

Other students believe that returning the laptops shouldn't be an issue.

"I think students are overreacting about it," said junior Stacy Lloyd. "There are plenty of other computers to use, and unless you have summer classes, it shouldn't be a big deal.

UTS is aware of the situation and has made an exception for students who are taking an online course or any other Saint Leo courses over the summer. For any students enrolled in any such course, they must bring a copy of the registration to UTS and sign a form agreeing to return their laptop by September 4. Also, students must be signed up for housing in the fall. Otherwise, the laptops must be returned.

"We know that this is not the ideal situation. But if we left all of the computers out there and did not offer any of these deals, it would cost the university $150,000 and that money will come out of somewhere else. So by doing this, we will save the university some money and try to make it so that students get something out of it too," said Lloyd.

Laptops are due back to UTS no later than April 30. The laptops can be dropped off at UTS or there will be a place in the cafeteria lobby on April 27 - 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. where a member of UTS will be present.

Despite economy,enrollment is up, but students spend cautiously

BY CASEY MCKENNA
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Students and small town residents are two groups who have been feeling the effects of the American economy.

Saint Leo University employees and nearby Dade City business owners have become more aware of profit, expenses, and the customers who have the ability to make or break their businesses. Consumers in these areas have become more careful in terms of where their money is going and what it is going towards.

College is an expensive, but worthwhile, investment to anyone who is considering the pursuit of an associates, bachelors, or graduate degree.

However, despite the economy, enrollment at Saint Leo has increased.

"Enrollment has increased. We have the best retention rate in terms of freshman," said Gary Bracken, vice president of enrollment. "We have more freshmen enrolled for next year."

Bracken said Saint Leo is in pretty good shape.

"We are ready to help those families who need the help. The value of Saint Leo University is appreciated because we are at the lower spectrum financially in terms of private universities," said Bracken

Although Saint Leo University's Admissions department is ready and willing to help students through the difficult financial times, students are still taking many precautions when it comes to dispensing money. Some have noticed there has been a shift in their social lives.

"There is a decrease in activities off campus. People are partying less and limiting their spending. They are focusing on getting jobs," said junior Sharonise Grace. "People don't want to spend money where it isn't necessary."

This may be a concern to business owners in nearby Dade City. Students aren't spending as much money at cafés, restaurants, and clothing stores. With Dade City being a small part of Pasco County, the business of college students from Saint Leo University has always been helpful.

Peggy Hunnicutt, the proprietor of Kumquat Kuriosities & Antiques, which is located on seventh street in Dade City said business is "definitely slower, even though I do have regulars that keep me going."

"A lot more people are looking than buying. Hopefully it will get better and people will start feeling more comfortable shopping and spending money again," said Hunnicutt, who has owned Kumquat Kuriosities and Antiques for a little over a year and a half.

When asked if she was worried about the state of the American economy

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Opinions

My pride for the Lions' Pride

BY KATIE GAISER
Lions' Pride Layout Editor

SHE SAID

I was never interested in newspapers or journalism when I first came to Saint Leo. However, as a freshman, I needed a job to sustain myself, and the school newspaper was one of the few jobs that was non-work study. So, I gave it a chance and signed up for the paper.

Little did I know I would eat, sleep, and breathe the newspaper until this very moment in time.

The Lions' Pride has certainly come a long way in the time I have been here at school. The paper used to be filled with articles that were part of a public newspaper college website called U-Wire. With little to no staff writers, it was the paper's only hope for content.

Now, I am proud to say that not one U-Wire article has been used since my time on the paper. *The Lions' Pride* is now completely student run, with all articles written by the students themselves. For such a small university with a limited amount of staff writers, this is a pretty big accomplishment. We were even able to put out a 12 page paper for several issues until the cost of printing went up. Those were the largest issues of the newspaper this campus has ever seen.

More recently, we published Saint Leo's first ever Art for Art issue, which consisted of poems, short stories, photography and art submitted by students on campus. This issue was a huge success, and it was great to be able to offer the students a chance to show off some of their best work.

We've also started a website for our paper, the first ever in Saint Leo history. We were finally able to publish weekly with two print and two online issues a month. This website was a huge step in getting our paper to the faculty, students, alumni, and staff. People are now able to read our paper at any time, at any place, and from any computer.

The Lions' Pride has done a complete turn around in the time I and the editorial staff have been working on it. Just ask an old faculty member or alumni what the paper use to be like. It was the hard work of the editorial staff and staff writers that made this paper better. People generally don't know all the work it takes to put out one issue. I invite anyone who has ever had an issue with the paper to give it shot, because I guarantee this job is any thing but easy.

Although we have come a long way, there is still more to be done with *The Lions' Pride*. We are striving to be bigger and better with each issue that comes out. We want the students to become involved and tell us what they want to read about. We want to cover the issues most relevant to the students and advise them about things they may not have even read about anywhere else.

I encourage any students interested in writing for the paper to sign up next year, especially if writing comes easy to you. This job is a great way to make money by being creative, talking to interesting people and getting the scoop on the latest events on campus.

Until next semester, happy reading folks.

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The last rant

BY JOSHUA M. SMITH
Lions' Pride Online Editor

Good news, my faithful readers! This is the last time you'll have to hear me go on a tirade about the lack of campus parking spaces. Indeed, the painfully sparse allotment of spaces has been a thorn in my side for many a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon class. I will not miss circling and circling for a spot where my high-performance machines might enjoy a much deserved rest. Saint Leo's ill-advised parking scheme will trouble me no longer!

And that's the only thing about Saint Leo I will not miss once I graduate next week.

Truth be told, I don't really want to leave Saint Leo. It may sound corny, but I truly do love the person I've become here.

I started Saint Leo in the fall of 2006 as a transfer student, and a non-traditional one at that. Though the campus is relatively small, I was intimidated by it and its students, the vast majority of which were ten years younger than myself.

I leave Saint Leo with more friends than I can keep track of.

Saint Leo has afforded me the chance to do things I never thought I would get the chance to do. Writing these opinion pieces is one of them. I've always been a man of strong opinions, but I've never had a public outlet for them. I worried that my views would alienate me, and I was surprised and affirmed when students and faculty began stopping me around campus to compliment my editorials.

You see, I came back to higher education believing that my conservative views would make me a target among students and faculty. What I found, though, was acceptance and tolerance. No professor ever tried to force his or her political views upon me, and when I disagreed with the views they shared, they made room for intelligent debate rather than condescending lecture. Politics never got in the way of the academics.

What will I miss about Saint Leo? It's the little things that I will miss most, I think: sitting in Trane Stop reading a book while waiting between classes; enjoying a coffee in the library's reading area with fellow students; giving a fist-to-fist "pound" to Cecilia when we agree on something; teasing Caitlin to make her feel guilty about skipping class; eating too much pizza in the cafeteria; meeting with the editors and staff of *The Lions' Pride*.

I'll also miss the faculty, who have been, without exception, kind, generous, patient, knowledgeable, funny, insightful, and supportive. I've gained a respect for the teaching profession I did not have prior to attending Saint Leo, and it is due to this university's outstanding faculty and staff.

In the fall, I will continue my academic career at the University of South Florida in their English, Rhetoric and Composition program. In many ways, it's like starting over with the same anxieties, fears, and insecurities. However, I move on knowing that I can succeed, which is a lesson I learned at Saint Leo University and one that I will never forget.

Thank you all for reading, for your friendship, for your support, and for making this university such an important institution in my life. I wish you all the best of luck in the future.

Godspeed.

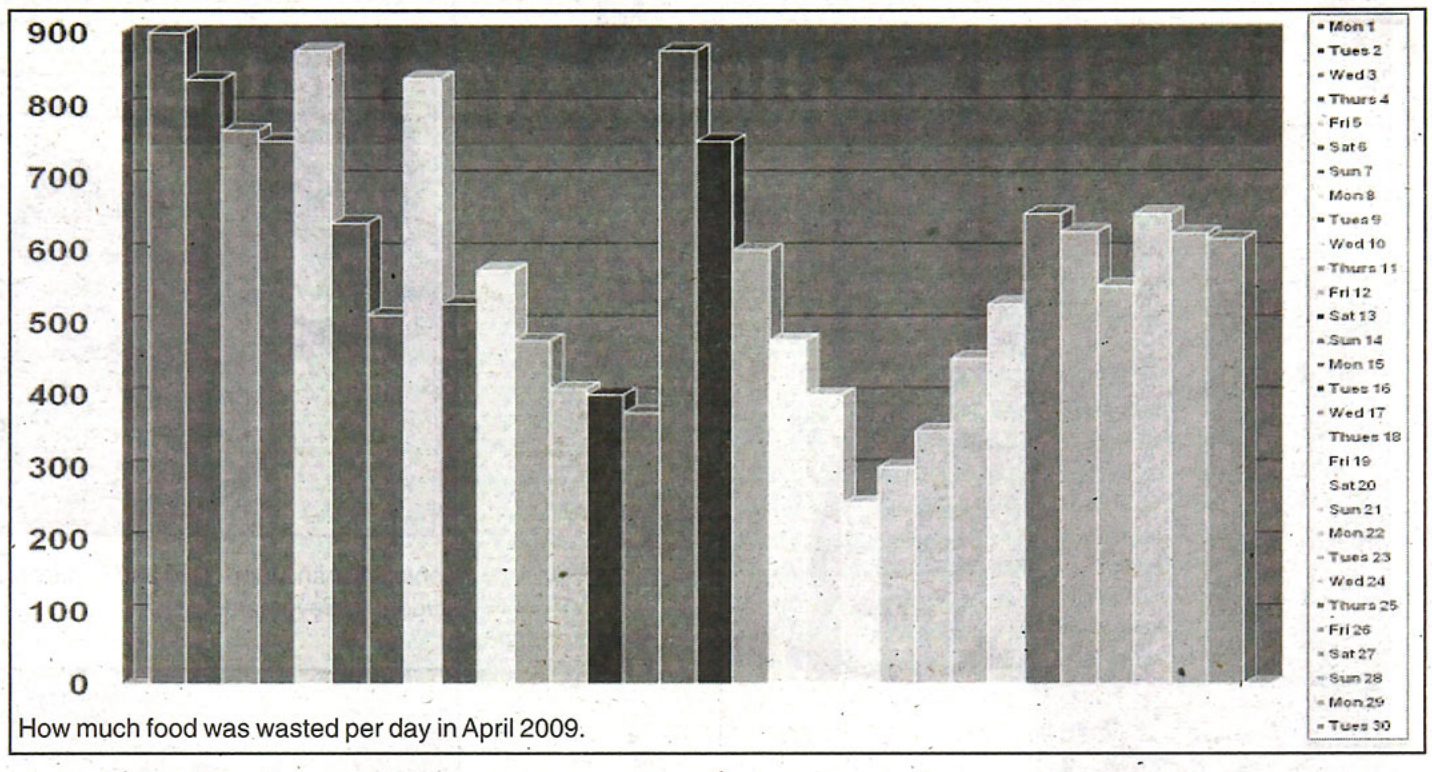
HE SAID

Write here

The Lions' Pride newsroom is located in the Student Activities Center, office 106. Our phone number is (352) 588-8316. Send letters to the editor to The Lions' Pride: 33701 State Road 52 Saint Leo, FL 33574 or email us at lions.pride@saintleo.edu. Letters to the editor must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department. Please include a phone number (not a publication) so we can verify authorship.

Cafeteria research shows a lot of food waste

BY KRISTIN BRITTAIN AND JESSICA OKEEFE
Lion's Pride Editor and Assistant Editor



How much food was wasted per day in April 2009.

One out of every eight Americans is hungry. Ninety-six billion pounds of good food is discarded in the United States. If five percent of that was recovered, it could provide the equivalent of a day's food for four million hungry people.

The Saint Leo University cafeteria and service provider Sodexo are very much aware of food wastage.

Hundreds of students filter in and out of the cafeteria consuming more than five third world countries. Research was carried out in the dish room to determine how many pounds of cooked food was wasted from April 1-18. Garbage cans that were used to collect the waste for food held 55 gallons and one-fourth of the container held 125 pounds. The total amount wasted within the eighteen days was 17,039 pounds.

"I think it's a shame that students aren't putting into practice Saint Leo's core value of 'responsible stewardship.' If everyone practiced a little moderation and only took what they knew they could eat, and then all this food would not be wasted," said junior, Amanda Walsh.

"On an average day the cafeteria can produce up to 1,200 pounds of wasted food, which includes bread, meat, vegetables, desserts, pastas, and etc.," said Robin Lavalle, campus dining manager. "On an event day, up to 900 pounds of food is produced. This is not taking into account all of the take out trays utilized by students per sitting, and there are approximately 150 trays."

Many cafeteria visitors contribute to the vast amount of food. Upon looking at the conveyor belt transporting the food and dishes into the wash room, they are filled with unfinished pieces of pizza and hamburgers with a single bite out of them.

"Within little over half of a month Saint Leo generated enough waste to feed 34,078 people if everyone fairly shared one and a half pounds of food; with the half pound composed of essential grains, meats, and a dessert, and would amount to a balanced healthy diet," said Lavalle. "From doing research it is predicted that within three months Saint Leo will produce 76,680 pounds of waste, which could feed 153,360 people."

The cafeteria now keeps track of the amount of food wasted per day with a board placed over the conveyor belt. Students are now aware of how much food they waste.

"Since we first started doing the board, the numbers have been way down to 200-425 pounds of food wasted per day. I am hoping it is because of the board. Again sometimes we get caught up in our everyday life and forget about other things until someone points it out," said Lavalle.

Some Saint Leo students also recognize the food waste and try to give back to the community. The Saint Leo Homeless Ministry, which is a part of University Ministry's Samaritan, feeds the hungry and the homeless of Dade City every Sunday morning. Sodexo works very closely with this group by donating several trays of food each week. Saint Leo Homeless Ministry works very hard to educate the student body about the importance of not wasting food.

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affecting her business in the year ahead she said, "Of course, I think everybody is. It's always on my mind."

Rosie's Boutique & Apparel, which is a short walk away from Kumquat Kurisosities and Antiques, has actually seen some progress in business. Edgar Valdez who runs the boutique with his parents said that "[business] has actually picked up for us over the past year." Rosie's Boutique & Apparel has been a part of the Dade City community for a year and a half. He says that "Dade City is a good area for business." Although business has improved for Valdez and his family, he does note that people have been less likely to buy pricier items.

"They [customers] purchase things, but they lean towards the cheaper gowns. We have something for everyone here. If college students come in, we can certainly offer a discount. We sell wedding, quinceañera, prom, and formal wear gowns here."

With business slowing down for some and picking up for others, students can't help but wonder if anyone is willing to hire right now.

"There are not many people willing to hire college students for summer jobs," said junior Shayne Tavares. Tavares has been searching for a summer job to provide some income and has not had any luck so far.

With this being the case, volunteering and interning are both options that students should consider for the time being. Both options provide students with experience in fields of interest, and there is always a possibility they will discover a new interest. Many business owners would probably appreciate the help as well.

In terms of saving money, students should clip out coupons and look for deals online before grocery shopping or purchasing needed items for school. The internet is one useful tool for consumers, but people should take notice of the coupon booklets placed at the entrances of convenience and grocery stores. They are often ignored but can save customers money when every penny counts.

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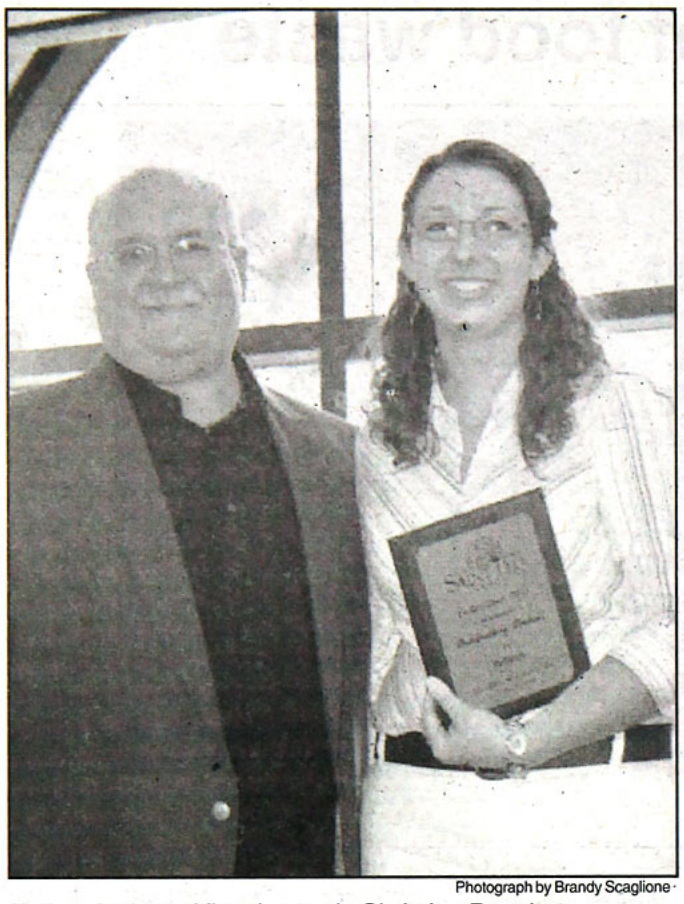
Academic Excellence Day



Photograph by Brandy Scaglione

Father Anthony Kissel awards Christina Beu the Outstanding Student in Religion award.

Photograph by Brandy Scaglione

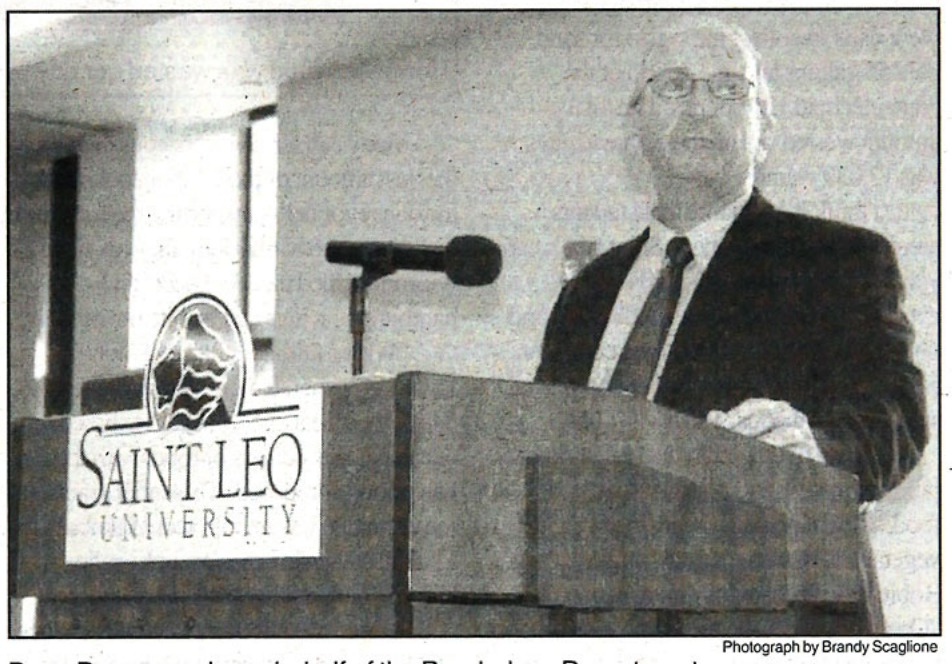
Joshua Smith listens intently as Mrs. Kasper speaks of his accomplishments before he receives his award.

Photograph by Brandy Scaglione

Senior Chenelia Valerio poses with Dr. Goodmon and Dr. Zacchilli after recieving the Outstanding Student in Psychology award.

Photograph by Brandy Scaglione

Seniors Karen Mapp-Yard and Ashley Nunes recieve their award for outstanding student achievement.



Photograph by Brandy Scaglione

Dean Bryan speaks on behalf of the Psychology Department.

Photograph by Brandy Scaglione

The 2009 Psi Chi Honors Society honors its newly inducted members and current eBoard.

Photograph by Brandy Scaglione

Karen Mapp-Yard presents her senior psychology study for fellow faculty and students.

Congratulations Saint Leo University Class of 2009

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Stephanie Marie Discepolo
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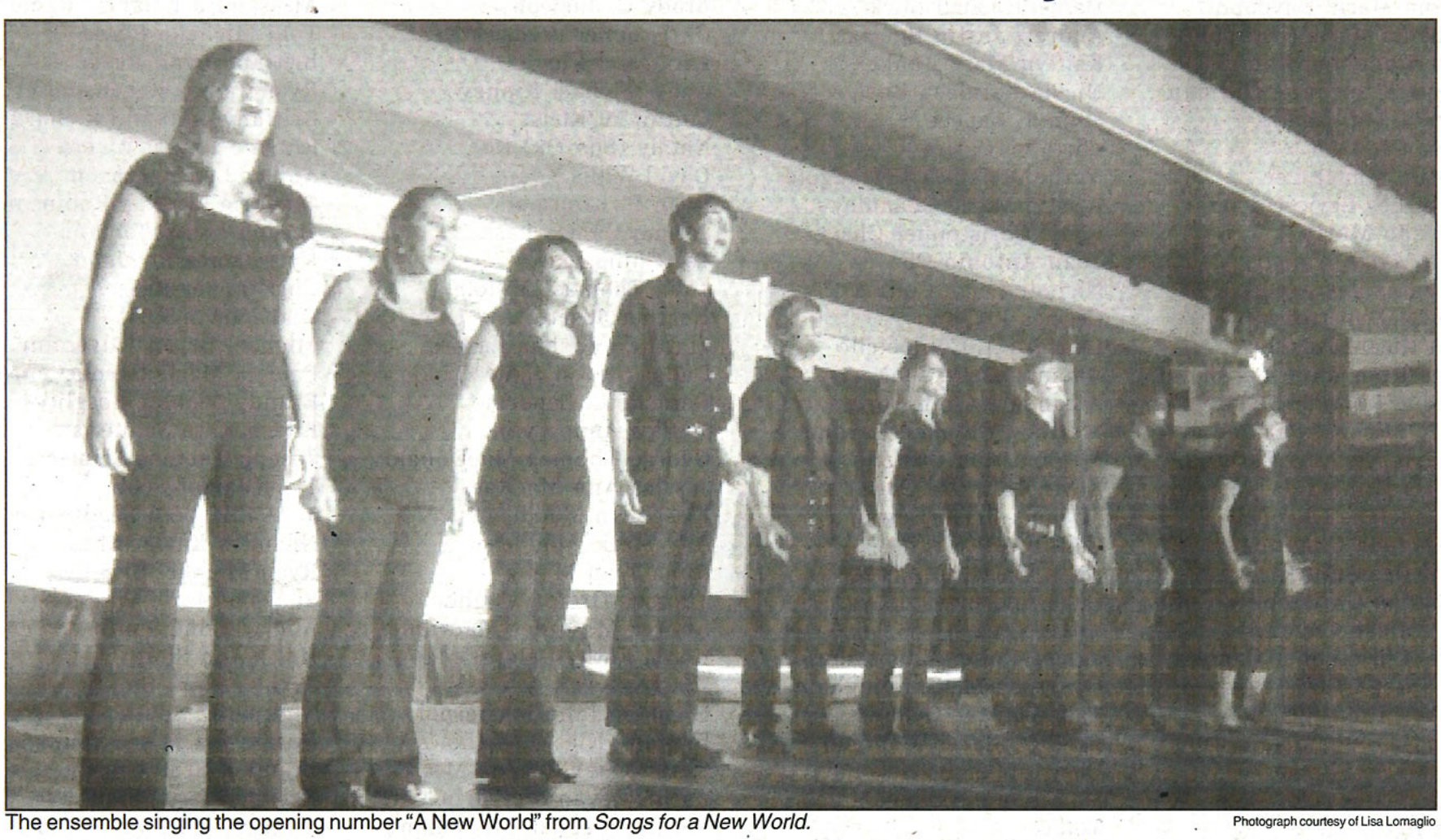
Arts & Entertainment

Saint Leo Celebrates a Journey of Faith



The ensemble singing the opening number "A New World" from *Songs for a New World.*

Photograph courtesy of Lisa Lomaglio

BY KATIE GAISER
Lions' Pride Layout Editor

As I sat in the freezing cold Marmion Center waiting for the show to begin on Friday April 3, I was unaware just how spectacular the performance I was about to behold would be. Yet, after the first three numbers, it was clear to me that this show was much more than just an entertaining escape from reality. This show was an inspiring journey of faith, hope, and love.

The show entitled, "Hear My Song: A Journey of Faith," told the story of nine individual journeys of faith. This musical review featured Broadway show tunes and pop songs that explored the casts' personal relationships with God. Each story was told from the actor's personal life, which made it all the more real and personal.

For the first time since she began the Drama Ministry program, Director of Music and Drama Ministry Melissa Hollis performed in the show, sharing with the audience her own personal journey of faith. Hollis was simply stunning with her amazing voice and the powerful message she brought to the stage with the creation of this musical review. As she began the show with a short introduction as to what we would be witnessing, her warm smile and welcoming presence invited all of us in the audience to explore our own personal journeys of faith.

The show consisted of two acts and had a wide variety of music, ranging from musicals like *Hairspray* and *West Side Story*, to more recent pop songs like "Waiting on the World to Change" by John Mayer. Throughout the show, each actor had his or her own conversation with God before performing a song that related to his or her personal journey.

The setting provided a classy yet intimate atmosphere. In the first act, actors Jon Galo, Melissa Hollis, Lisa Lomaglio, Cleana Francois, Adam Wethington, Kevin Smith, and Erica Doyle blew up the stage with their incredible voices and amusing dance numbers. The way they shared their personal struggles and desire to reconnect with God were so inspiring to me I nearly fell out of my seat watching and listening so closely. The second act was similarly amazing, as actors Amy Persaud and Anna Robinson sung beautifully as always in their solo performances. There were also a number of group performances that really pulled the show together. These songs demonstrated to me that although we all have struggles, the love and hope from our friends and the power of our faith can make any day shine brighter.

Although each song was wonderfully performed, there were a few numbers that stood out. Wethington's powerful performance of the song "Close Every Door" from Broadway's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, moved me to tears. His honest and intimate portrayal of his struggles with being himself was simply inspiring. I also really enjoyed the song, "Human Heart" from *Once on This Island* led by Hollis. The entire cast lifted my spirit out of my chair with their beautiful harmonies and overwhelming passion. I could tell in each of their faces, they were singing from their souls.

I admire the cast members for having the guts to share their stories with the audience and show how they wanted to better their relationship God. I laughed, I cried, I danced in my seat, and I clapped until my hands were red. I was truly moved by this show and commend each of the actors for such an amazing performance. I can only hope that Hollis and the actors of the Drama Ministry will continue to perform their hearts out in future shows to come.

That's a Wrap!

BY THOMAS SCAGLIONE III
Lions' Pride Entertainment Editor

As the end of my last semester at Saint Leo University is approaching, I feel a sense of nostalgia when thinking back on my years here and all the time I worked with *The Lions' Pride*. From when I first began my journalism experience by becoming a staff writer almost two years ago, I had no idea I would eventually become the Entertainment Editor and, much less, that I would form a sort of family with my fellow writers and editors.

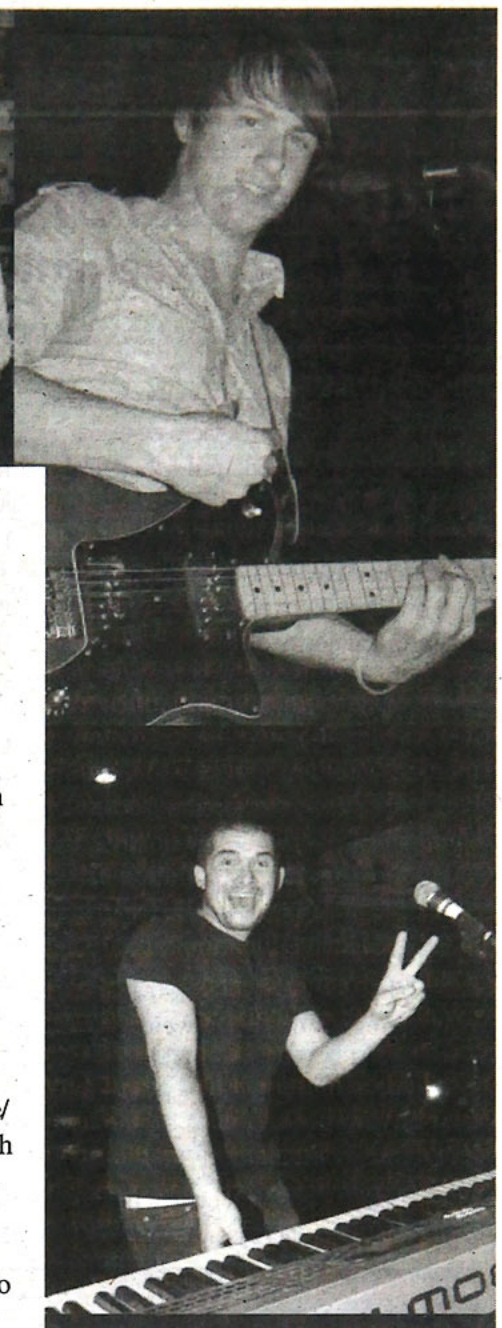
Since I am transferring after this semester, I wanted to take a small amount of time to thank everyone who has shaped and influenced me while at Saint Leo. First, I would like to thank Mrs. Kasper for her constant and unwavering devotion to *The Lions' Pride*, without which the paper wouldn't survive. I would also like to thank the other editors who somehow are able to pull together an amazing paper every issue. Finally, I would also like to thank Saint Leo for being my home away from home for the first two years of my college experience.

I wish the future staff and incoming students all the best, and I'm sure that *The Lions' Pride* will be ever on the rise. Here's hoping to the best of luck, love, and happiness!

Oh Snap!

BY BRANDY SCAGLIONE
Lions' Pride Photo Editor

I remember three years ago I came to Mrs. Kasper's office with my portfolio ready to go, and without looking at it I had the job. Soon after I was writing articles, taking pictures, and attending every campus event possible. The next year I was offered the task of becoming Photo Editor, which came with perks like hanging out with Lonestar, attending Halloween Horror Nights for free every year, and using my press pass for VIP privileges. Working with *The Lions' Pride* has been the most rewarding and entertaining job I have ever had, and probably will ever have. It's been an exciting adventure and because of it I grew as a writer, photographer and person. I just want to say thanks to everyone who may have enjoyed my photography and writing over the past 3 years and thank you to Mrs. Kasper and *The Lions' Pride* staff. I'm going to miss you guys.



Students Rock Against Cancer

BY BRANDY SCAGLIONE
Lions' Pride Photo Editor

Theta Phi Alpha has done it again with this year's second annual Rock Against Cancer, which raised over $1,500. This year the concert was held in the gymnasium, avoiding space and venue conflicts that may have occurred like last year.

For only a $10 donation, students received a complimentary t-shirt and a concert that provided 5 bands and was about 5 hours in length (talk about an awesome deal!).

"This years bands were so good and super Nice. It was amazing getting to work with one of my favorite bands, *Between the Trees*, and their performance made all the stress and craziness well worth it," said Shelly Peterson, the social chair for Theta Phi Alpha.

The concert began at 7 p.m. on April 4 with local power-pop band *Just Say When* from Panama City, FL. Doing a great job as an opening band, *Just Say When* quickly had student's heads bobbing.

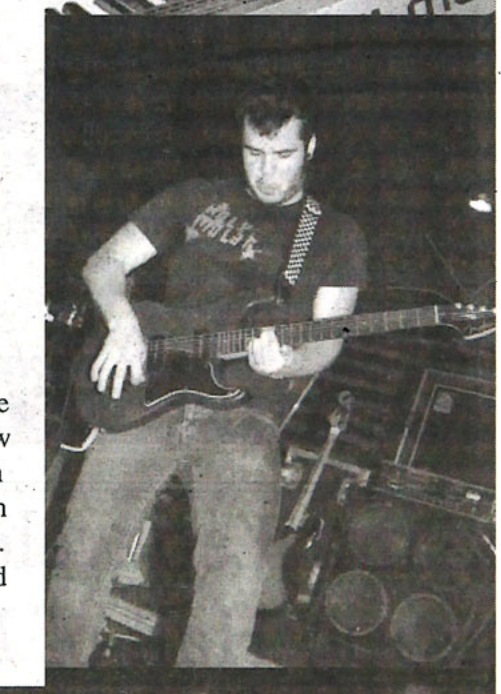
Just Say When was quickly followed by another local band from Orlando titled *Shut Up and Dance*. The band's name is essentially the best way to describe their reaction on Saint Leo students. Within the first song of their set, Shauna's powerful vocals and Joey's keyboard made the crowd, well, shut up and dance.

As the crowd's energy rose, the next band had a tough set to follow, in order to keep the students moving. However, this seemed like an easy task for *The Shoreline*. *The Shoreline* is a rock/powerpop band from Orlando with enough energy even before the show, as they goofed around backstage with the other bands. The entire crowd was moving at this point and even a few crowd surfers were spotted. *The Shoreline's* set was probably the best that could both energize and wind down the crowd within the change of their songs.

Now for a change of pace, alternative/emo band *Chasing Thrill* had a few mosh pits forming. It seems the crowd changed drastically as a lot more males, who were originally sitting in the bleachers head bobbing with their girlfriends, came down to thrash around for this set.

The lighting for *Chasing Thrill's* set was very dark and dramatic, with a lot of strobe effects that enhanced their fast paced style. *Chasing Thrill* provided a much-needed change in pace from the earlier powerpop bands and created an excellent set to lead in to *Between the Trees'* set.

The final band to play this year's second annual Rock Against Cancer was *Between the Trees*. The audience became much more crowded, with many seats now vacant in the bleachers. Lead singer Ryan Kirkland had most girls' hearts melting with his smooth voice and even smoother lyrics. Almost every student in the crowd seemed to know every song off their set list, and were happily singing and dancing along.



"It was amazing getting to work with one of my favorite bands, Between the Trees, and their performance made all the stress and craziness well worth it"
-Shelley Peterson
Social Chair Theta Phi Alpha

Sports

Success for the Seniors

Lions keep excellent record going

BY TIM PEASE
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

The Saint Leo men's lacrosse team held their senior night on April 4, their final home game of the season. The Lions played Florida Southern, who is in their first season of having a lacrosse program.

The Lions kept possession of the ball for the majority of the game, eventually it would allow them to win the game with a score of 16 to 5. In goal for the Lions was David Erdman, who had ten saves during the game. There were a number of seniors who contributed to the win: Senior Ben Brigham led the Lions with four goals and two assists, Senior Mark Dargon had three goals and two assists, and Senior Chris Storrie added two assists. Also scoring for the Lions were Luke Baruch and Joe Guerin, who both had three goals, and Kyle Marceau, Mark Walczyk, and Evan Mills each added one goal.

The senior class has helped build up the Saint Leo lacrosse program, and they have had great success.

"I am proud of all of our seniors for helping to build a wining culture in such a young program. Their leadership and hard work has been the key to our rapid rise from a new program to an NCAA contender. Their careers have set the stage for not just this season's successes, but the future prominence of this lacrosse program," said Coach Jorgensen.

The Saint Leo lacrosse team has had a successful season. With this win their record moves to 8 and 3, and it puts them in second place in the Deep South conference.

The Lions are almost perfect at home this year, holding only one home loss to their name. In addition to taking the win over Florida Southern on April 4, the Lions would go on to win at Rollins College April 8, and against Wingate University in the Deep South Conference Semifinal on April 18. At the time of this issue going to print, the team will be competing in the Deep South Conference Final on April 19.

Photograph Courtesy of Mike Carlson

Congrats, Seniors!

The Lions' Pride congratulates you on a job well done.

BOBBY MUNOZ
BASEBALL

AARON MCLAMAR
BASEBALL

JONATHAN DUNCAN
BASEBALL

REID TILSON
BASEBALL

DALE SLIMICK
BASEBALL

KYLE HOBBS
BASEBALL

ERIC NICKOLAISON
BASEBALL

ERIC SHARPER
MEN'S BASKETBALL

MATT CORNUET
MEN'S GOLF

BRYAN JONASSON
MEN'S GOLF

BENJAMIN BRIGHAM
LACROSSE

FRANK KEEL
LACROSSE

ERIC TROMBLY
LACROSSE

GARRETT LINQUIST
LACROSSE

LEO CLOUGHERTY
LACROSSE

COLE SIEJA
LACROSSE

MARK DARGON
LACROSSE

CHRIS STORRIE
LACROSSE

RYAN POMPONIO
LACROSSE

ALEC RAHE
LACROSSE

ALLY MADDOX
SOFTBALL

ASHLEY URBANIK
SOFTBALL

TATIANA CASIS
SOFTBALL

STEPHANIE DISCEPOLO
SOFTBALL

DONALD MACLARY
MEN'S SWIMMING

ANDREW SHEETS
MEN'S TENNIS

Saint Leo welcomes three new members into the 2009 Hall of Fame

BY MINDY PIERCE &
BY JESSICA PALL
Lions' Pride Staff Writer
Lions' Pride Assistant Sports Editor

It took a fancy meal of prime rib and a roomful of guests and family to induct three very important Saint Leo former athletes and alumni into the Hall of Fame on Thursday, March 26th.

These three athletes, Sean O'Connor ('83), Ricky Dale ('84), and Stephanie Harris ('00), all exemplified Saint Leo's elite athletic characteristics that awarded them membership into the Hall of Fame for 2009.

In his opening statements, Dr. Kirk stated that with this induction we celebrate more than athletic accomplishments but further a celebration of the university's values. O'Connor, Dale, and Harris demonstrated responsible stewardship, excellence, integrity, community involvement, and a healthy mind, body, and spirit.

The first candidate being honored, Sean O'Connor was a baseball player for the former Monarchs of Saint Leo College. Some of his achievements worth mentioning include his position as starting pitcher his freshman and sophomore years, his status as second in career appearances at Saint Leo with 63, and sixth in career saves with seven. Later O'Connor had the opportunity to be the pitching and head coaches for numerous colleges, such as: Framingham State College, Brown University, Bryant College, Assumption College, and Providence College. As he was awarded his title as a Hall of Fame member, O'Connor remembers his days when he was a student at Saint Leo.

"When you're here, it's one of the most comfortable places in the world" claims O'Connor. "Going to school here was the best four years of my life".

Sean showed both a great sense of humor and love for baseball during his acceptance speech. Jokingly, when reminiscing about his time here, he stated that he wasn't even sure if the school had a library. On a more serious note, he ended his speech with talking about visiting the baseball fields.

"I could sit on that baseball field 10 hours a day", Sean claimed.

The second candidate being honored at the ceremony was tennis player Stephanie Harris. Achieving many accomplishments during her time at Saint Leo, she was ranked number one of both the singles and doubles as a monarch her freshman year before she became a lion her remaining three years. During her acceptance speech, Stephanie told the audience that Coach Crosby is 100% responsible for her being there as he recruited her with a broken foot. She claimed how very grateful she is that Crosby gave her a chance to play intercollegiate tennis. Like Sean, Stephanie also nostalgically recalls of the sense of belonging she felt as soon as she stepped onto campus.

"It just felt right" Stephanie claimed. "The people here is what was so great."

Previous Baseball coach, Ernie Chaplain introduced Ricky Dale, the third inductee of the night. Chaplain told the audience that

"Dale was a very special individual and special player who played on a special team."

Interestingly, Dale was on the baseball team at the same time as fellow inductee and friend, Sean O'Connor. A transfer student, Dale never guessed he would be going to go to Saint Leo. However, after looking at the school from suggestion of a friend, by the time he drove back home to Gainesville, Dale decided to attend Leo and play starting center fielder.

"I made up my mind and I never regret it" Dale told the room of people.

During his acceptance speech, audience members could see his love for the sport. In fact, he told the audience about his last college appearance as a senior. During this game, Dale got a hit but ended up on second base. Unfortunately, the other team got three outs before he was able to make it to home plate. Knowing that this was his last college game, Dale said that he sat at second base and cried for two hours.

Overall, the night was a success. These former three athletes deserved their induction as they brought distinction, honor, and excellence to Saint Leo's athletic history. To nominate former athletes for the Class of 2010, one must contact Saint Leo University Hall of Fame Committee Chair Walt Riddle.